

## PREFACE.

The Conference, of which this volume contains the proceedings, was first mentioned in the Report of a Committee appointed to consider the more efficient working of the Montreal Branch of the Evangelical Alliance in October, 1885. The first formal resolution relating to the Conference was passed on the 7th day of February, 1887, when a Committee was appointed to consider the matter and report. A special meeting was called to consider the report of this Committee in May, 1887, when the Alliance determined to let the matter hinge upon the Parent Alliance sending a Deputation to take part in the Conference. The reply from London being that it would be impossible to send the Deputation that year, but promising to do so at the earliest possible period, the matter was dropped for the time being. In October, 1887, the question of the Conference was resumed, and a Committee was appointed to prepare an outline programme. After considerable correspondence and much careful thought, the Conference was called for October, 1888, and the programme published. Arrangements were made to bring the Conference before all the Annual Meetings of the various Ecclesiastical bodies, by whom it was very generally and heartily endorsed.

One hundred and fifteen delegates responded to the invitation of the Montreal Branch of the Alliance, representing all Evangelical Denominations, and all parts of the Dominion.

The Executive of the Montreal Branch feels greatly indebted to the Trustees of the Crescent Street, the American Presbyterian, and the Dominion Square Methodist Churches, for kindly placing these churches at their disposal, for the meetings of the Conference; also to the gentlemen who so efficiently served on the various Committees, as well as to the citizens who cordially extended their hospitality to delegates and invited speakers.